

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified Application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 are in the case. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 11-14 have been canceled. The Specification has been amended.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Specification has been amended by including reference to LPC bus in the Detailed Description, specifically at page 6. The statutory provision of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, makes clear that the claims are part of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claim 13 has been amended, thus rendering this rejection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1, 5, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wunderlich et al. in view of Ahern, Claim 11 has been canceled thus rendering this rejection moot with respect thereto, while Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 5, 8 and 11. Independent Claim 1 now recites a system including a first repeater portion connected to a first segment of a host bus and a second repeater portion connected to a second, *non-hierarchical* segment of the host bus remote from the first portion of the host bus, where the first and second portions of the repeater are connected by a serial link. That the second segment is non-hierarchical allows for a simplified repeater architecture that, in turn, allows for interconnection of two half repeater devices by a serial link. The patent to Wunderlich et al. apparently relates to what it calls a PCI "repeater," but actually teaches away from the claimed invention. Rather than proposing non-

hierarchical segments, this reference teaches segments that are effectively hierarchical. Thus, it refers to “primary” and “secondary” PCI bus segments 112 and 118, respectively, and refers to transactions initiating on the primary bus as “downstream” transactions. In addition, it teaches the need for a unified “arbiter” that straddles the link and renders a serial link between half-repeaters problematic. It thus teaches away from the claimed invention. The patent to Ahern relates to a bus bridge, not a bus repeater, and is discussed in the Specification. It fails to cure the deficiencies of the patent to Wunderlich et al. The other art of record is even less relevant.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that for all of the above reasons, Claim 1 as now constituted is allowable over Wunderlich et al., Ahern. and, indeed, over all of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any combination. Claims 5 and 8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and so are allowable as well, as well as for the additional limitations found therein. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wunderlich et al. and Ahern as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of FOLDLOC, Claims 12 and 14 have been canceled thus rendering this rejection moot with respect thereto, while Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection with respect to Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10, which depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. The allowability of Claim 1 over Wunderlich et al. and Ahern is argued above, and those arguments are incorporated by reference here as if set forth in their entirety. FOLDLOC fails to cure the deficiencies of those two references, relating merely to a serial link. Therefore, for all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is allowable over Wunderlich et al., Ahern and FOLDLOC and, indeed, over all of the art of record, whether considered alone or in any combination. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10, depend, either directly or indirectly,

from Claim 1 and so are allowable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional limitations found therein. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wunderlich et al. and Ahern as applied to Claim 11, and further in view of TI-Flatlink, Claim 13 has been canceled thus rendering this rejection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the objection to Claim 12 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), Claim 12 has been canceled thus rendering this objection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding the objection to Claim 14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), Claim 14 has been canceled thus rendering this objection moot. Wherefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

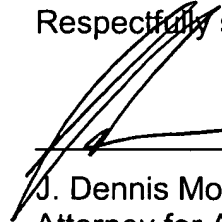
It is respectfully submitted that the claims recite the patentably distinguishing features of the invention and that, taken together with the above remarks, the present application is now in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims are requested at an early date.

While it is believed that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees to the Deposit Account No. 20-0668

of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dennis Moore', is written over a horizontal line.

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